

“Lest we forget”

*they shall not grow old
age shall not weary them
nor the years condemn at the
going down of the sun,
and in the morning,
we will remember them*

Inscription on the Nellis Korean War Memorial

**By Staff Sgt. Jim Bianchi
AWFC Public Affairs**

Five months ago it was just an idea. How would Nellis commemorate the Korean War?

Maybe a ceremony or a plaque on a wall somewhere would suffice.

Or maybe, something grander, something more stately and unforgettable. A memorial that the entire country can see, and something that says four simple words — we will not forget!

The unveiling of the Nellis Korean War Memorial Oct. 19 at the Enlisted Club brought a stunned silence to the crowd of several hundred who attended. The impressive and large memorial, three pieces totaling more than 20-feet in length, incorporates historical pictures,

famous quotes and writing about war on a patriotic flag background. The Nellis memorial successfully depicts the harsh struggle of the common airmen, soldiers, sailors and Marines who served in the Korean War.

“For me, and a lot of folks assigned here, it’s a tribute to the men and women who served their county,” said Lt. Col. Albert Hill Jr., 99th Mission Support Squadron commander. “In light of the recent tragedy on the U.S.S. Cole, it’s been an emotional week. This just brings it all home for me.”

The Korean War began June 25, 1950, when communist North Korean forces invaded the democratic Republic of South Korea. With the immediate condemnation by the United Nations, a coalition force lead by the United States was dispatched to the region to help repel the

invading forces.

Four years later, the war ended in a stalemate with both countries now poised to defend the 38th parallel from the other. Little ground was won or lost on either side of the now demilitarized zone. The greatest loss to both combatants was the more than four million people who died, half of whom were civilians.

Of the 500,000 American men and women who fought in the “forgotten war,” 8,185 are unaccounted for. Almost 1,000 fellow airmen, comprised of every military career field are represented in the missing.

To help honor the fallen and remember the missing, the Nellis Korean War Memorial will tour schools and other locations in southern Nevada. Starting in 2001, the memorial will tour the country.

“BEHIND THE WIRE,
MEN ARE FLESH,
AND VULNERABLE.”

T.R. Feibrenbach, This Kind of War



919: Air Force

6318: Army

286: Navy

662: Marine Corps



Above, Airman 1st Class John Heaton, Nellis Honor Guard, stands at attention during the unveiling of the Nellis Korean War Memorial at the Enlisted Club Oct. 19.

Above right, after four years of fighting, more than 50,000 Americans died and 8,185 are still unaccounted for.

Below and right, the three panels that make up the memorial are covered in historical photographs, famous quotes and comments about war and the American people. and armed forces.

“THE TRUE TEST OF CIVILIZATION
IS, NOT THE CENSUS, NOR THE
SIZE OF THE CITIES, NOR THE
CROPS-NO, BUT THE KIND OF
MAN THE COUNTRY TURNS OUT.”

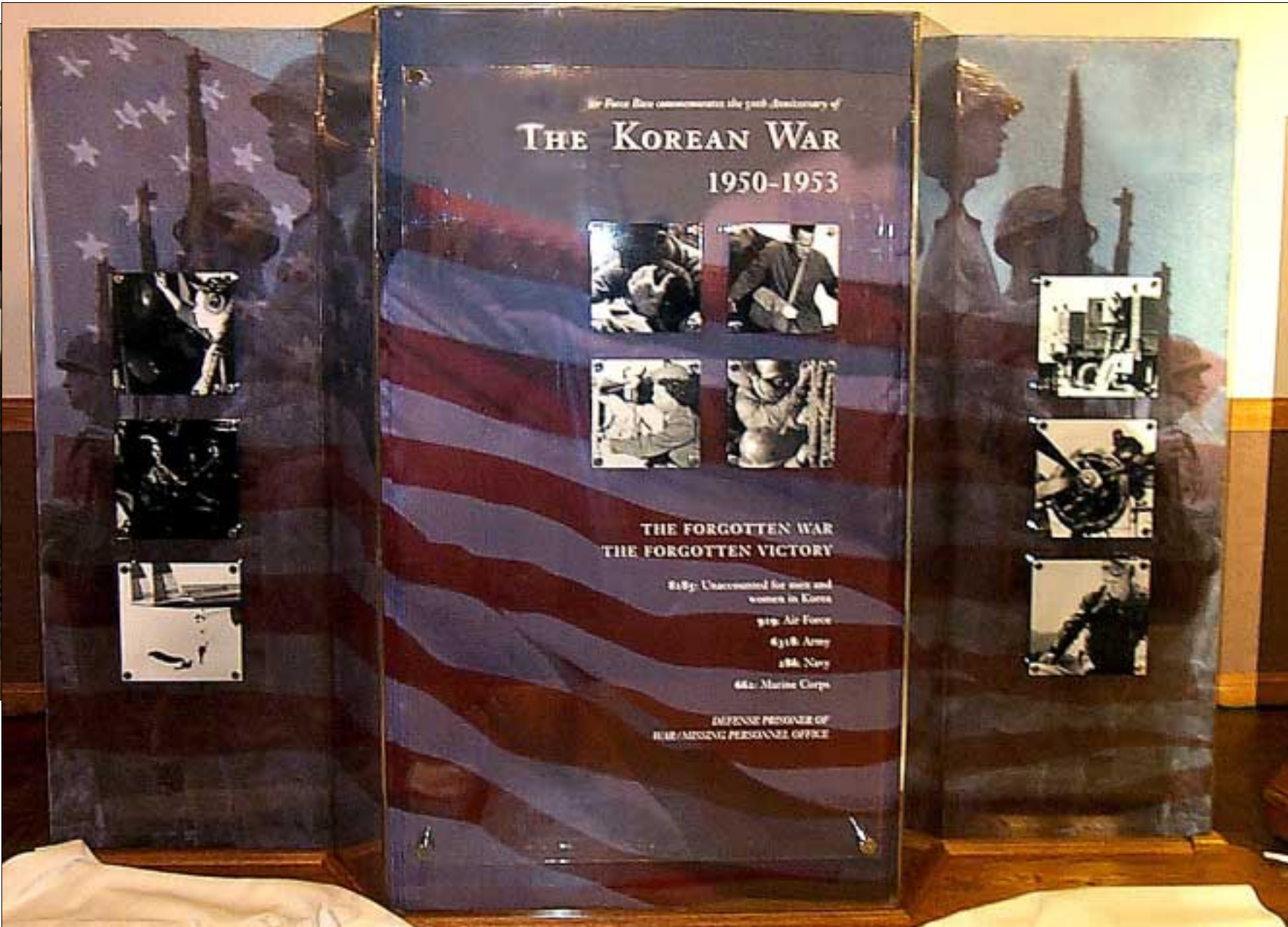
Ralph Waldo Emerson, Society and Solitude



Nellis men and women contributed more than 3,000 hours to build the Nellis Korean War Memorial.

**Thank you to:
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Photos by Staff Sgt. Jim Bianchi

